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Message Text

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47
ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NASA-04 NEA-10 NSAE-00

NSC-10 OIC-04 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /200 W
---------- 052672
R 270850Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 238
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
IAEA VIENNA 431
USUN NEW YORK 1707
USAEC GERMANTOWN
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2601

E.O. 11652
TAGS: PARM,
SUBJECT: JAPANESE RATIFICATION OF NPT POSTPONED

REFS: (A) TOKYO 2238 (AND PREVIOUS); (B) STATE 031214
(C) VIENNA 1611

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: OPPOSITION OF RIGHT-WINGERS AND WEAKENED
OHIRA-TANAKA POLITICAL LEADERSHIP HAS LED GOJ TO POSTPONE
ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN RATIFICATION OF NPT DURING CURRENT DIET
SESSION. FONOFF EXPECTS NEGOTIATIONS WITH IAEA ON
SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT TO BEGIN IN MARCH.
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SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT AND NPT RATIFICATION BILL
ARE NOW EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED TO NEXT DIET

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SESSION LATE THIS YEAR. EMD SUMMARY

1. SPATE OF PRESS STORIES,WHICH WE CONFIRMED WITH FONOFF, INDICATE THAT GOJ DECIDED FEB 25 TO DELAY SEEKING RATIFICATION OF NPT DURING CURRENT DIET SESSION. FONOFF DISARMAMENT DIV HEAD NOMURA TOLD EMBOFF GOJ HAS GIVEN UP HOPE OF GETTING NPT RATIFIED DURING SHORT PRE-ELECTION SESSION AND WILL ATTEMPT RATIFICATION IN NEXT SESSION BEGINNING LATE THIS YEAR. NOMURA SAID NEGOTIATIONS WITH IAEA ON SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT SHOULD START IN MARCH. EVEN THOUGH SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ACHIEVED WITH NO GREAT DIFFICULTY, IT WILL PROBABLY BE PRESENTED TO DIET AS PACKAGE WITH NPT RATIFICATION PROPOSAL.

2. NOMURA AND PRESS CITED POLITICAL FACTORS AS PRIME REASON FOR DELAY. SPECIFICALLY, STA MINISTER MORIYAMA'S OPPOSITION QTE FOR TECHNICAL REASONS UNQTE (REFTELS) AND SEIRANKAI'S OPPOSITION BASED ON CONTENTION THAT RATIFICATION OF NPT WOULD WEAKEN JAPAN'S INTERNATIONAL BARGAINING POWER FORMED CORE OF POLITICAL FORCES AGAINST NPT. ALSO CITED AS REASON FOR DELAY WAS FAILURE TO INCLUDE FUNDS IN BUDGET FOR ESTABLISHING DOMESTIC INSPECTION MACHINERY.

3. FONOFF, SUPPORTED BY PRESS, CONTENDS THAT JAPAN NEEDS TO PARTICIPATE IN PREPARATORY CONFERENCES TO REPRESENT OWN INTERESTS, THIS RECONFIRMING VIEW THAT PREPCOM HAS BEEN INCENTIVE TO JAPANESE FOR RATIFICATION (AS STATED REF C). FONOFF AND PRESS ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT DELAY WILL AROUSE INTERNATIONAL DOUBTS ABOUT JAPAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD NUCLEAR MATTERS. CONCERN ALSO EXPRESSED OVER US ATTITUDE, PARTICULARLY USG WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY ENRICHED URANIUM IF JAPAN DOES NOT ACT RESPONSIBLY ON NPT.

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3. COMMENT: NPT RATIFICATION IS CASUALTY OF WEAKENED POLITICAL POSITION OF OHIRA-TANAKA LEADERSHIP IN FACE DETERMINED MINORITY OPPOSITION OF MORIYAMA, SEIRANKAI, AND OTHER HARDLINERS ON NPT, CHINA AVIATION ISSUE, ETC. BOTH ISSUES HAVE BEEN USED BY RIGHT-WING FORCES IN ALMOST SAME MANNER AS PART OF STRATEGY TO TRY TO TOPPLE OHIRA. FINMIN FUKUDA'S SUPPORT OF NPT RATIFICATION PROBABLY COULD HAVE BEEN DECISIVE BUT, AS IN AVIATION ISSUE, HE MAINTAINED

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SILENCE. MORIYAMA'S OPEN OPPOSITION TO POLICY
ANNOUNCED BY PRIMIN WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST UNLIKELY
IN FORMER LDP DAYS IF HE INTENDED TOSTAY IN CABINET.
THIS REVEALS GREAT DEAL ABOUT WEAKNESS OF
TANAKA'S HOLD ON LDP AND HIS CABINET. NONETHELESS,
SINCE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT SHOULD SOON BE
SATISFACTORY CONCLUDED AND MOST INFLUENTIAL OPINION SEEMS TO BE
IN FAVOR OF RATIFICATION, WE BELEIVE EVENTUAL
NPT RATIFICATION IS STILL IN CARDS.
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